

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 06325 010252Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5631

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 6325

FOLLOWING REPEAT MADRAS 782 SENT ACTION NEW DELHI

INFO BOMBAY/CALCUTTA 29 PAR 76.

QUOTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRAS 782

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: TAMIL NADU: GOI MINISTER ON SHAKE UP IN THE POLICE
DEPARTMENT

1. THE GOI DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFIARS F.H. MOHSIN STATED IN THE LOK SABHA APRIL 28 THAT THE PRESIDENT'S RULE HAS MADE SEVERAL CHANGES IN THE POLICE ORGANIZATION IN TAMIL NADU "IN ORDER TO TONE UP THE WORKING OF THE DEPARTMENT." POLICE OFFICGLS WERE TRANSFERRED BECAUSE "LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS HAD DEVELOPED CERTAIN VESTED INTERESTS AND LINKS WITH LOCAL POLITICIANS," BUT THESE TRANSFERS WERE NOT AFFECTED ON THE BASIS OF SPECIFIC CHARGES AGAINST ANY OFFICER.

2. MOHSIN FURTHER STATED THAT ALL DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERALS OF POLICE EXCEPT TWO WERE TRANSFERED FROM THEIR PREVIOUS POSTS IN ORDER TO "STOP MALPRACTICES, IF ANY." "EVEN FURTHER CHANGES MAY TAKE PLACE," HE STATED. "THIS WILL GO A LONG WAY IN STOPPING ALL MALPRACTICES."

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 06325 010252Z

3. MOHSIN STATED THAT ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION ARE BEING INVESTIGATED. A MEMBER ASKED IF THE MINISTER WAS AWARE THAT THE DMK HAD MADE A PRACTICE OF SYSTEMATICALLY INDUCTING ANTI-SOCIAL ELEMENTS SUPPORTING THE DMK INTO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND IF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD WEED OUT SUCH ELEMENTS. THE MINISTER REMARKED: "IT IS A GOOD SUGGESTION FOR ACTION."

4. COMMENT: UNDER PRESIDENT'S RULE, FOLLOWING THE GENERAL SHAKE UP ORDERED AMONG TOP OFFICIALS IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT AND AMONG THE DISTRICT COLLECTORS, THERE HAVE BEEN SIMILAR SHAKE UPS BOTH IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE JUDICIARY IN THE STATE. PRO-DMK ELEMENTS HAD INFILTRATED INTO THE STATE SERVICES, INCLUDING THE POLICE ORGANIZATION. THUS FAR EIGHT OF TEN DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERALS OF POLICE, AS WELL AS DISTRICT POLICE OFFICERS, WERE TRANSFERRED FROM THE POSTS THEY HELD UNDER THE DMK. NORMALLY AN OFFICER IS DUE FOR TRANSFER AFTER THREE YEARS IN A PARTICULAR POST. TOP POLICE OFFICERS, LIKE THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION, HABITUALLY SHOW THEIR LOYALTIES TO THE RULING PARTY IN POWER AND, IN TAMIL NADU, SOME OF THEM WERE USED BY THE DMK TO FURTHER PARTY INTERESTS. LOWER RANKING OFFICERS AT THE INSPECTOR AND CONSTABLE LEVEL APPOINTED DURING THE DMK REGIME WERE USED TO FURTHER THE POLITICAL FORTUNES OF LOCAL DMK LEADERS. HOWEVER, THERE WERE VERY FEW TOP OFFICIALS WHO ACTUALLY VOLUNTEERED TO ABET THE DMK'S "MALPRACTICES."

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